

Samuel Smith – Eastham Land Records 1650-1745

Samuel Smith was the oldest son of Ralph Smith. Samuel was born in Plymouth in 1641. He arrived in Eastham with his parents about 1654. He married Mary Hopkins who was the daughter of Giles Hopkins. He and his father were successful merchants in Eastham with interests in fishery and agriculture. Samuel died in 1696 at age fifty-five. Samuel and his wife Mary probably are buried in unmarked graves in Eastham Cove Burying Ground. Both Samuel's father Ralph and Mary's father Giles have monuments in Cove Burying Ground.

1669

Granted to Samuel Smith twelve acres of upland at Pochet next to the cove and next to the lot of his father Ralph Smith. PDF A211, M127.

1674

Samuel Smith complained that the bounds of his land at Pochet next to the cove were decayed and lost. The Town appointed a committee of three to reset the bounds using marked stones. PDF M125.

1684

Samuel Smith offered to sell land to the Town. The Town agreed and purchased the land for ten pounds. A description of the land was not included in the record. PDF P50.

A small land grant to Samuel Freeman Jr. near the burying place (Cove Burying Ground) makes reference to Samuel Smiths property in the same area. PDF P50.

1686

This record makes reference to one thousand acres bought by Samuel Smith for the Town's use from John Sipson, Indian. The record indicated that Steven Atwood Jr. sold to Richard Rich for five shillings his right and interest in the thousand acres purchased by Samuel Smith. Also Steven Atwood Sr. sold to Richard Rich his right and interest in the thousand acres. Also William Mayo sold his share of the thousand acres to Richard Rich of Dover in consideration of a former debt due to Rich. No description of the thousand acres was given in the record. PDF A151, M214.

1696

Samuel Smith and Samuel Freeman were granted liberty to fence their property to the water providing there were gates for foot persons and carts to pass as they had occasion. This most likely was the property near Cove Burying Ground referred to in the 1684 grant described in PDF P50. The water would have been Town Cove. PDF P75.

1700

Samuel Freeman requested that the Town reset the bounds of Samuel Smith's property which was next to his property and near the Meeting House. Joshua Bangs and Thomas Paine Jr. reset the Smith property using marked stones. A stone marked "S" indicating one end of the south border of Smith's property was placed next to the southeast corner of the burying place. Placement of the other border stones indicated that Smith's property ran at an angle behind the burying place possibly to Town Cove. PDF M25, M26.

1703

Granted to Samuel Smith, Micajah Snow and Stephen Snow and their heirs a parcel of meadow or sedge ground on the Middle Flat of the Town Flats. The dimensions indicate the lot was about five acres. PDF A280.

Granted to Samuel Smith, Josiah Cooke and John Harding and their heirs a parcel of meadow at Great Meadow by the creek. The dimensions indicate the lot was about two and one-half acres. PDF S56.

1711

Granted to the heirs of Samuel Smith, deceased, four acres of land next to where he lived and northeast of land of Joseph Collings. The land was northwest of a little pond called Round Pond and next to the cartway. PDF T163.

1712

Granted to Samuel Smith and his heirs three-quarters of an acre on the north side of the Smith land behind the burying place. The parcel was next to Town Cove and next to land of Samuel Freeman. PDF T166.

1715

Granted to Samuel Smith and his heirs a lot at Chequesset at Billingsgate next to land of Samuel Mayo Jr. The dimensions indicate that the Smith lot was about fourteen acres. PDF T257.

1716

Granted to Samuel Smith and his heirs a wood lot at Billingsgate on the north side of Herring Brook near the Truro boundary. The only dimension given was westerly thirty-six pole. Other bounds were indicated in reference to adjoining wood lots. The north-south boundary could have been from thirty-six to one hundred pole based on the information about nearby wood lots. A square shaped wood lot thirty-six pole by thirty-six pole would be eight acres. PDF T300.

The Eastham land owned by Samuel Smith or granted in his name to his heirs described in these records amounts to at least forty acres. By 1745 not counting his father twenty-four more Smiths received Eastham land grants.

Note – Some historical accounts associate Samuel Smith with owning a tavern used by shore whalers on Great Island at Billingsgate. No reference to this site was found in the Eastham old land records.